

Message Text

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ACTION EA-09

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 PM-04 NSC-05 SP-02 SS-15 CIAE-00 INR-07

NSAE-00 DODE-00 DEAE-00 SNM-02 /045 W

-----221037 127860 /21

R 221010Z FEB 77

FM AMEMBASSY BANGKOK

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9487

INFO AMCONSUL CHIANG MAI

AMEMBASSY RANGOON

C O N F I D E N T I A L BANGKOK 4036

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, SNAR, TH, BM

SUBJECT: FIRST GROUP OF BURMESE REBELS AGREE TO LEAVE
THAILAND

REF: BANGKOK 3469

1. RTG COMPLETED ARRANGEMENTS FEB 21 TO SEND FIRST GROUP OF BURMESE REBELS ON THAI SOIL BACK TO BURMA (REFTEL). SOME 150 SHAN UNITED ARMY (SUA) SOLDIERS WERE, ACCORDING TO BANGKOK POST, WITHDRAWN FROM BAN HUAY PA DAM, MAE HONG SON PROVINCE UNDER THE SUPERVISION OF THE BPP REGION 3 COMMANDER, GEN. WICHAI. POST ARTICLE STATED THAT MOVE WAS IN ACCORDANCE WITH RTG DESIRE TO MAINTAIN GOOD RELATIONS WITH BURMA AND TO STOP ILLICIT FLOW OF NARCOTICS WHICH REBEL GROUPS TRAFFIC IN TO SECURE FUNDS TO ARM THEIR FORCES. ARTICLE ALSO STATED THAT WITHDRAWAL AGREEMENT BETWEEN RTG AND SUA HAD BEEN MADE IN DECEMBER.

2. LOCAL SUA COMMANDER, IDENTIFIED AS MAJOR JAI TEE SAENG, TOOK OCCASION TO DEPARTURE TO EXPRESS HIS GRATITUDE TO THAILAND FOR HAVING ALLOWED SUA TO RESIDE WITHIN ITS BOUNDARIES. MAJOR JAI REPORTEDLY TOLD PRESS, "WE LOVE
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THE THAI PEOPLE. AND WE'LL RETURN TO PAY OUR DEBTS SOME DAY." HE ALSO REPORTEDLY ADMITTED THAT HIS MEN HAD PREVIOUSLY TRAFFICKED IN OPIUM, BUT NOT ON THAI TERRITORY. MAJOR JAI ADDED, "FURTHERMORE, PLEASE BE INFORMED THAT KHUN SA, WHO HAS BEEN OFTEN REPOGED TO BE A CHINESE MAW, IS IN FACT A SHAN AND OUR LEADER. HE CARRIES ANOTHER NAME -- CHANG SEE FOO."

3. COMMENT: ARTICLE INDICATES THAT THIS IS FIRST OF MANY BURMESE MINORITY GROUPS TO BE " PUSHED BACK" ACROSS THE BORDER. BPP SOURCES STATE THAT 120 RATHER THAN 150 SOLDIERS WERE WITHDRAWN AND THAT THEY EXPECT THE 120 TO CAMP JUST ACROSS THE BORDER ON THE BURMESE SIDE. MEANWHILE, THE BPP HAS STATIONED A PLATOON AT HUAY PA DAM. SINCE PRESENT ESTIMATES ARE THAT SUA HAS BETWEEN 3000 AND 3500 ARMED MEN STATIONS AT TEN DIFFERENT LOCATIONS IN THAILAND AND BURMA (WITH HEADQUARTERS AT BAN HIN TAEK IN CHIANG KAI PROVINCE), THE BPP HAS A BIG JOB AHEAD IF IT IS TO BE SUCCESSFUL IN RIDDING THAILAND OF THE SUA.
BURKE

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Message Attributes

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Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 22-Feb-1977 12:00:00 am
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Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
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